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California Polytechnic State University

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CSU News:

May Revise Sustains January Budget Cuts;

Trustees Delay Vote on Fee Increases

LONG BEACH -- The California State University saw movement on its 2003/04 budget on two fronts yesterday: In Sacramento, the governor released the May Revise, a revision to his original 2003/04 state budget proposal, which protects the CSU from additional budget cuts beyond those proposed in January. Meanwhile, in Long Beach, the CSU's Board of Trustees postponed a vote on increasing student fees, pending complete details of the governor's May Revise and a review of legislative proposals that might require a larger fee adjustment than currently proposed.

"While we are grateful that the May Revise spares us from additional cuts, we are not by any means out of the woods," said Richard P. West, the CSU's executive vice chancellor and chief financial officer. "We do not have a final budget yet."

The May Revise would essentially preserve the governor's January budget proposal for the CSU. That proposal calls for a \$260.7 million net reduction, or a 10 percent cut to the CSU's budget. The governor's proposal also assumes a 25 percent fee increase for undergraduates and a 20 percent fee increase for graduates, a proposal the trustees had been preparing to vote on yesterday morning. Trustees will likely take up the fee increase issue this summer, after the CSU has received more definitive information about the total cuts to its 2003/04 budget.

A group of CSU students and faculty came to the board meeting to protest the proposed fee increases. "The mission of the CSU is to provide affordability, accessibility, and quality," California State Student Association Chair Artemio Pimentel told the board. "In the coming months, all of those things are in jeopardy."

Looking ahead to possible future action on the budget, CSU budget officials described three proposals for additional reductions that are currently circulating in the Legislature:

- * A Senate Republican proposal that calls for a 7 percent across-the-board cut, which would mean an \$182 million cut above and beyond the \$260.7 million net reduction to the CSU's budget;

- * An Assembly Democratic proposal that calls for a \$69.5 million cut above and beyond the \$260.7 million net reduction to the CSU's budget;

- * An Assembly Republican proposal that calls for a \$200 million cut above and beyond the \$260.7 million net

reduction to the CSU's budget.

Governor Davis and the Legislature last week approved a total of \$3.7 billion in cuts to the state budget. While there was no specific legislation to reduce the CSU's budget, the legislative intent was to assume an additional \$69.5 million in cuts for the CSU, similar to the Assembly Democratic plan. If the Legislature takes formal action to implement these reductions, the CSU will face a total net reduction of \$330.2 million, or 12.7 percent of its budget.

The CSU Leader will continue to report on the budget as further developments unfold. More information: [May Revise](#) | [Board decision on fees](#).

-30-

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